

Name _____

Date _____ Class _____



BACKGROUND: 1868 State Constitution

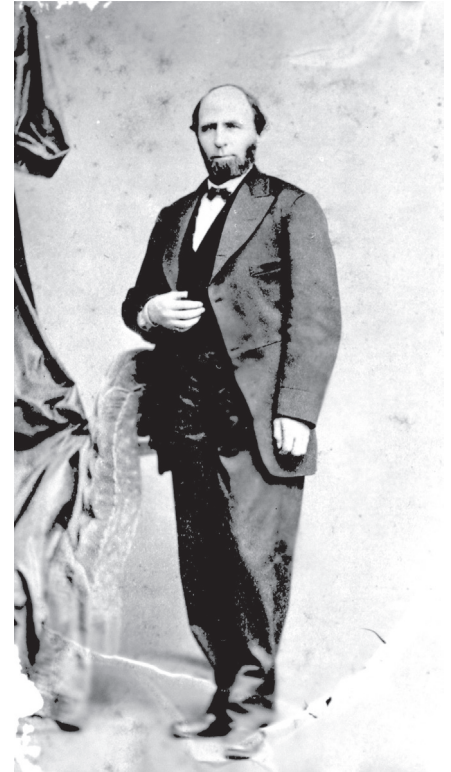
Changes to State Government after the Civil War

After the Civil War, the federal government required North Carolina and other states in the former Confederacy to create new constitutions. In 1865, U.S. Congress had passed the 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery and guaranteeing freedom for over 360,000 people in North Carolina. The new North Carolina Constitution of 1868 announced the state's allegiance to the Union.

Former Confederate soldiers had to take an oath of allegiance to the Union before they were able to vote. Many in the Democratic party were unhappy with governmental changes but could not vote against them. Republicans dominated the 120-member constitutional convention, which included 15 Black delegates.

To re-enter the Union and regain seats in U.S. Congress, North Carolina also had to ratify the 14th Amendment, which gave full citizenship and equal rights to African Americans. On July 4, 1868, the state re-entered the Union. Between 1870 and 1876, North Carolina had 30 Black state legislators and one U.S. Congressman.

The 1868 constitution gave more power to the people and to the executive branch. The governor's term increased from two to four years. Other reforms included the election of state and county officials that were previously appointed. All men, regardless of race or property, could vote and hold office. The new constitution also called for free public schools and created state prisons and charitable institutions.



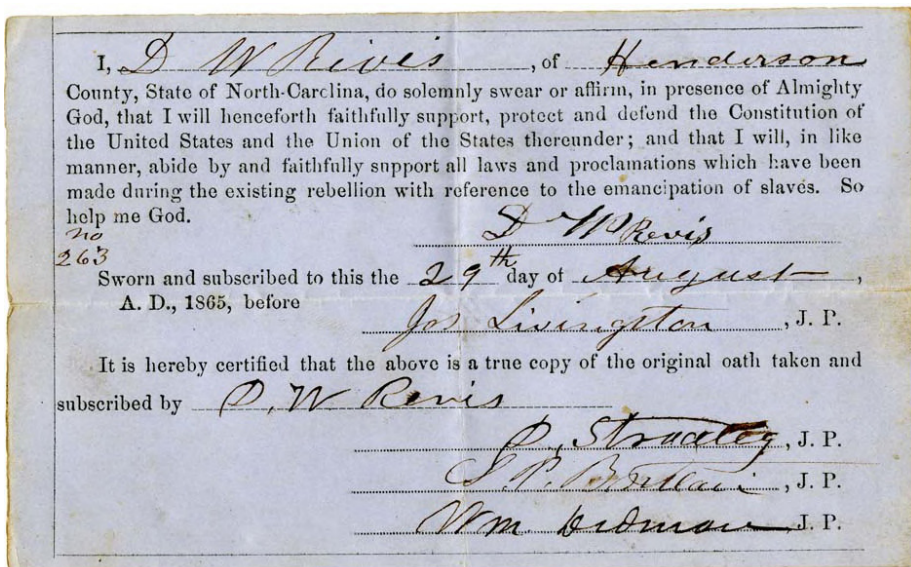
William Woods Holden (1818–1892) was born near Hillsborough. He served as an appointed provisional governor in 1865 and was then elected governor in 1868. After deploying the military to suppress the Ku Klux Klan, Holden was impeached in 1870. N.53.15.1566, State Archives of N.C.

Quick Fact Check

1. Why was Holden impeached?
2. Why did conservatives oppose the new constitution?
3. Name one of the changes in the 1868 constitution?
4. What did the 14th Amendment do?

ACTIVITY:

Changes in Voting and Political Power



Oath of Allegiance, signed by Daniel W. Revis, August 29, 1865, PC.1914, State Archives of N.C.

Directions: Match the year to the change in voting and political power by drawing a line to connect them.

Note: Multiple changes go with a year.

YEAR

1865

1868

1870

North Carolina ratifies a new Constitution after being federally required to hold a convention to rewrite it.

NC legislature ratifies the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, which grants citizenship to all persons "born or naturalized in the United States," including formerly enslaved people, and provides all citizens with "equal protection under the law."

Year with the highest number (20) of Black men serving in the state House of Representatives.

U.S. Congress passes the 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery and guaranteeing freedom for over 360,000 people in North Carolina.

North Carolina officially re-enters the Union.

The Civil War end in April. North Carolina, like other states in the former Confederacy, is under federal military rule. Former Confederate soldiers cannot vote in North Carolina until they sign an oath of allegiance to the U.S. Constitution and the Union.

Governor William Holden is impeached for deploying the military to suppress the Ku Klux Klan.